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CLANDESTINE LABORATORY AWARENESS

What Is "Meth"?

The drug is called Methamphetamine or "Meth". It is produced in clandestine laboratories. "Meth" can be easily cooked using common household chemicals made in conjunction with asthma or cold remedies sold over the counter, or in a more elaborate fashion using chemicals purchased through the Internet.



Office of Training
Quantico, Va.

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- A large amount of cold tablet containers that list Ephedrine or Pseudoephedrine as ingredients.
- Jars containing clear liquid with a white colored solid on the bottom.
- Jars labeled as containing Iodine or dark shiny metallic purple crystals inside of jars.
- Jars labeled as containing Red Phosphorus or a fine dark red or purple powder.
- Coffee filters containing a white pasty substance, a dark red sludge, or small amounts of shiny white crystals.
- Bottles labeled as containing Sulfuric Acid or Hydrochloric Acid.
- Bottles or jars with rubber tubing attached.
- Glass cookware or frying pans containing a powdery residue.
- An unusually large number of cans of Coleman Fuel, paint thinner, acetone, starting fluid, Red Devil Lye, and drain cleaners containing Sulfuric Acid or bottles containing Muriatic Acid.
- Large amounts of lithium batteries, especially, ones that have been stripped.
- Soft silver or gray metallic ribbon (in chunk form) stored in oil or Kerosene.
- Propane tanks with fittings that have turned blue.
- Occupants of residence going outside to smoke.
- Strong smell of urine, or unusual chemical smells like ether, ammonia or acetone.

Caution: Clan Labs are extremely dangerous. Many of the chemicals found in these labs are very corrosive or flammable. The vapors that are evolved from the chemical reactions attack mucous membranes, skin, eyes, respiratory tract. Some chemicals will react with water or other chemicals and cause a fire or explosion.


Items Commonly Found In Clan Labs

Commercial Products

Aluminum Foil
Camera Batteries
Charcoal Lighter Fluid
Denatured Alcohol
Epsom Salts
Gasoline
Heet
Iodine Crystals
7% Tincture
Kerosene
Lacquer
Mineral Oil
Muriatic Acid
Red Devil Lye
Roto Rooter/Drain
Drainer/Liquid Fire/
Battery Acid
Starting Fluid
Striker Plate
Table Salt
Over-The-Counter
Cold Medicine

Chemicals

Aluminum
Lithium
Petroleum
Distillates
Mixture of
Alcohols
Magnesium
Sulfate
Petroleum
Distillates
Methyl Alcohol
Petroleum
Distillates
Petroleum
Distillates
Petroleum
Distillates
Hydrochloric
Acid
Sodium
Hydroxide
Sulfuric Acid
Ethyl Ether
Phosphorus
Sodium Chloride
Ephedrine/
Pseudoephedrine



<u>Hazards</u>	<u>Uses</u>
Non-Hazardous	Forms Metal Complex
Water Reactive	Forms Metal Complex
Flammable	
Flammable	
Non-Hazardous	Absorbs Water
Flammable	Oil Extraction
Flammable	Tablet Extraction
Irritant	Forms Complex With Pseudoephedrine
Flammable	Oil Extraction
Flammable	Oil Extraction
Flammable	Oil Extraction
Corrosive Acid	Converts Oil to White Powder
Corrosive Base	Adjusts pH
Corrosive Acid	Reacts With Table Salt
Flammable	Oil Extraction
Flammable	Source of Red Phosphorus
Non-Hazardous	Reacts With Sulfuric Acid to Form Hydrochloric Acid Gas
Non-Hazardous	Required for Synthesis

<u>Common Item</u>	<u>Use</u>
Coffee Filter/ Cheesecloth Sheet/ Towel/Napkin	Separates Liquid From Solids
Pots, Pans, Bowls, Jars, Sports Drinking Cups, Pressure Cooker	Cooking Utensil
Stove Top, Oven, Microwave, Grill	Sources of Heat
Ice Tea Jars, Drink Dispensers	Separates Layers of Liquids
Gasoline Can With Tubing	Mixes Sulfuric Acid With Table Salt to Form Hydrochloric Gas

Effects on Brain

"Meth" initially sends the brain a feeling of pleasure, but as the drug is abused the pleasurable feeling is lost. The "Meth" abuser suffers the same addiction cycle as crack cocaine abusers. The biggest difference, however, is that while crack binges rarely last more than 72 hours, meth binges can last up to 2 weeks.

Under the effects of "Meth", you'll become agitated and feel "wired". Their behavior can become very unpredictable. They can be friendly and calm one moment and turn angry and paranoid the next. The abuse of "Meth" drives most people into a depression which leads into paranoia, and aggression.

The following is a generic description of various types of booby-traps which have been encountered by law enforcement personnel at clan lab sites.

Booby-Traps in Clan Labs

- Light switches wired to flammable liquid containers, booby-trapped light bulbs or other explosive devices.
- Refrigerator doors (and their internal light bulbs) wired to detonate with explosive liquid when opened.
- Video tape cassettes altered to detonate an internal explosive when placed into a video player.
- Monofilament trip lines connected to chemical or explosive booby-traps and/or fishing hooks.
- Attack dogs and poisonous/dangerous snakes.
- Pipe bombs, weapons and other obvious devices.

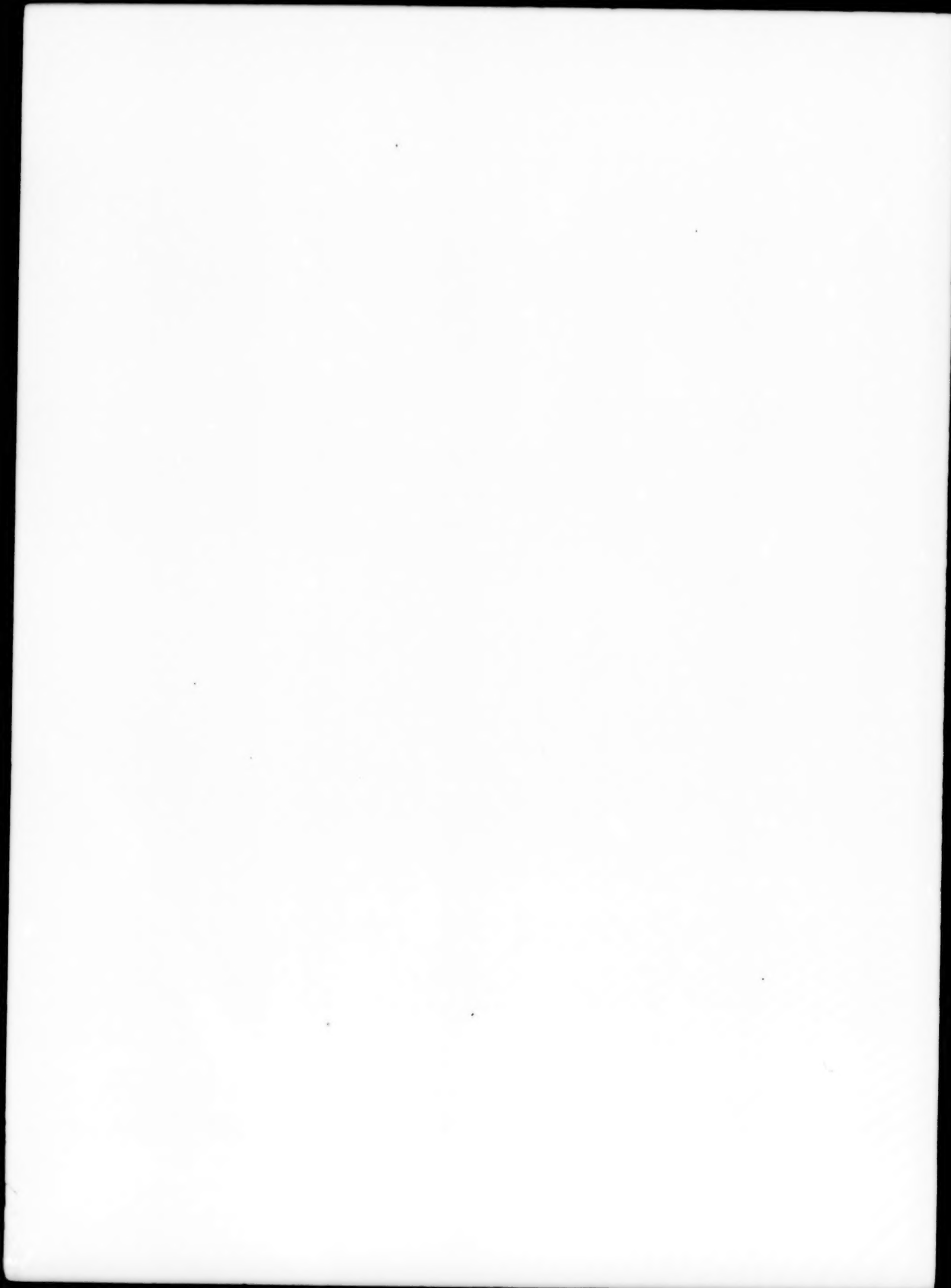
Minimizing the Effects of a Booby-Trap

- Visually check everything before you touch it.
- Check all furniture before you use it.
- Be careful with electrical appliances. Do not use light switches or interior lights while inside a building. Do *not* open refrigerators or other electrically charged appliances.
- Do not open any container without first giving it a thorough exterior inspection before touching it.
- Do not consume any food or beverage while in the suspect building. Chemical contamination may occur through air particulate matter or contact with your food.
- Use your eyes, nose, and ears when inside a booby-trapped area. Stay alert and be ready for anything.

For assistance, if a Clan Lab is discovered, call your local DEA Field Offices and ask for the Clan Lab Group.

Atlanta Division	404-331-4401
Boston Division	617-557-2100
Caribbean Division	787-775-1815
Chicago Division	312-353-7875
Dallas Division	214-640-0801
Denver Division	303-705-7300
Detroit Division	313-234-4000
El Paso Division	915-832-6000
Houston Division	713-693-3000
Los Angeles Division	213-894-2650
Miami Division	305-590-4870
Newark Division	973-273-5000
New Orleans Division	504-840-1100
New York Division	212-337-3900
Philadelphia Division	215-861-3474
Phoenix Division	602-664-5600
San Diego Division	858-616-4100
San Francisco Division	415-436-7900
Seattle Division	206-553-5443
St. Louis Division	314-538-4600
Washington Division	202-305-8500

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